



NOVEMBER 2010 EDITION

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Salina Human Relations

“ ... with liberty and justice for all.”

THE MISSION OF THE SALINA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION IS TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND TO ESTABLISH EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PERSONS WITHIN THE CITY OF SALINA THROUGH CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION.

Salinans make a difference

More than 100 volunteers help beautify the city

North Salina is a better place today because of the efforts of dozens of volunteers who participated in “Make a Difference Day” last month.

A total of 126 volunteers removed nearly 19 tons of debris from north Salina neighborhoods, including three dump-truck loads of tree limbs, 116 tires and 30 containers of household hazardous waste, said Nancy Klostermeyer, executive director of The Volunteer Connection.

Klostermeyer organized the event along with the Rev. Johnnie Curtis of North Point Church, Jim Gile of the Volunteer Connection, Ramona Newsom and Andy Martin of the Salina Area United Way,



VOLUNTEERS participating in the Oct. 23 “Make a Difference Day” event work together to clear debris from properties in north Salina. The effort was organized by The Volunteer Connection and other local organizations.

Clay Thompson of Serving Salina Together and Judy Irvin of the City of Salina’s Neighborhood Services Department.

“Make a Difference Day 2010 was the best ever in Salina,” Klostermeyer said. “The partnership between (the organizing agencies) combined with community leaders from north Salina brought a diverse group

of individuals together to give a hand to people with the will but not the physical or financial resources to remove excess debris from their environment.”

Those who helped clean up the 50-square-block area included Capt. Mike Reid and 51 cadets from St. John’s Military School, 22 volunteers from Sunrise Presbyterian Church, eight

from Community Corrections, five each from Salina Regional Health Center and the United Way and three from the Salina Rescue Mission.

Also, Smoky Hill Construction, Salina Iron and Metal and other local businesses gave of their time, machinery, vehicles and operating supplies to help with the clean-up efforts.

SHR promotes rights to safe housing

In partnership with the City of Salina's Building Services Department, Salina Human Relations has begun a campaign to help people be aware of the minimum housing code.

Our office regularly receives calls from people living in rental properties which are unsanitary or unsafe. Our goal is to help people to understand that properties in Salina must be in compliance with city building codes.

Examples of requirements under the minimum housing code include:

- Every dwelling must be provided with heating units so that it is capable of reaching an air temperature of 70 degrees under ordinary winter conditions.
- Every dwelling unit must be provided with operable

smoke detectors conforming to the adopted building codes. Detectors must be mounted on the ceiling or wall at a centrally located point giving access to rooms used for sleeping.

- Every window and exterior door must be reasonably weathertight, watertight and rodent-proof and must be kept in good working condition and repair.

- All plumbing and plumbing fixtures must be maintained in good working order.

- Every dwelling unit must be provided with such receptacles as may be necessary to contain all garbage and trash, and the receptacles must be maintained in good repair at all times.

- The building official may find that a structure is unfit for human use if certain conditions

exist which are "injurious to health, safety or morals," such as a vermin infestation, fire hazards and structural, electrical or plumbing deficiencies.

If you suspect a code violation in your building, call the Building Services office at 309-5715. They will do a free inspection of your property, and should violations be found, the city will pursue a remedy on your behalf.

More information is available at the SHR website, www.human.salina.org.

To promote awareness about this issue, SHR has produced informational materials which are available in various locations in the City-County Building. We also are including information about this topic in our public presentations.



A GROUP OF STUDENTS gathers for a talk with Robert Cunningham (black shirt, far left) during the 2010 Teen Summit, which was Oct. 23 at The City teen center. About 30 teens gathered for the all-day event, which featured discussion groups on a variety of topics affecting teens such as health and well-being, multicultural diversity, peer pressure and spirituality.

'Cold Weather Rule' in effect through end of March

November is here, which means the Cold Weather Rule is in effect again in Kansas.

The rule, which is enforced by the Kansas Corporation Commission from Nov. 1 to March 31, ensures that you will have electric and gas service for your home during the winter, regardless of whether you can afford to pay your bill.

A utility can't disconnect you when the temperature is forecast to drop below 35 degrees or be in the mid to low 30s in the next 24 hours.

To keep from getting disconnected when it's 35 degrees or above, or to get reconnected regardless of the temperature, you must make pay arrangements with your utility.

If you can't pay your entire bill, call your

utility company to make pay arrangements.

One option is to agree to pay one-twelfth of the overdue amount, plus one-twelfth of your current bill, all disconnection and connection fees, and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months.

Another option is to negotiate a payment plan to pay the overdue amount off in less than 12 months.

You must also pay your full bills for new service while paying off the overdue amount.

For more information, click on the "Consumer Information" button at the KCC website, www.kcc.state.ks.us, or call 1-800-662-0027.

Calendar of Community Events

Nov. 7: Salina Human Relations Department/ Saline County Emergency Management presentation on emergency preparedness (in Spanish), Iglesia del Nazareno, 1425 S. Ohio, 6 p.m.

Nov. 8: Art exhibit by Kansas Wesleyan University artists opens in Café Choices Gallery, Salina Public Library, 301 W. Elm.

Nov. 9: League of Women Voters Lunch & Learn, 12:15-1:15, Matt Ade, a member of the governor's Domestic Fatality Review Board, will speak on Death in Kansas from Domestic Violence, Prescott Room, Salina Public Library, 301 W. Elm.

Nov. 9: Salina Human Relations Commission monthly meeting, 5:30 p.m., Room 105, City-County Building, public is invited.

Nov. 9: University United Methodist Church Healthy Lifestyle program, noon, Santa Fe & Claflin, Maureen Toll of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce will present on job opportunities for seniors. Senior lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. for \$3.50 each Tuesday.

Nov. 10: Foster Parent Information Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Prescott Room, Salina Public Library, 301 W. Elm. For questions or to RSVP, please call 1-800-593-1950, ext. 8118.

Nov. 11: City of Salina offices and Salina Public Library closed in observance of Veterans' Day.

Nov. 16: DVACK Festival of Trees fundraiser, Ramada Inn, 1616 W. Crawford, preview and social hour starts at 6:30 p.m., buffet dinner at 7 and benefit auction at 8, \$40 per person, call 827-5862 or go to www.dvack.org for more information.

Nov. 19: City of Salina lunch fundraiser for Salina Area United Way, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Carver Center, 315 N. Second. Meal cost is \$4 for dine-in/carry-out or \$5 delivered. Taco burger or walking taco, chips, cookie and a drink. Single taco burgers or walking tacos can be purchased for \$2.50. For delivery, please call Lisa Upshaw at 309-5776 by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 17. Minimum delivery of four orders per address.

Nov. 21: NAACP-Salina monthly meeting, 3 p.m., Salina Art Center, 242 S. Santa Fe, public is invited.

Nov. 24-25: City of Salina offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day (Salina Public Library closed on Nov. 25).

Nov. 26: Start date for mailing letters to Santa. Mail a letter in the library's special mailbox with a self-addressed stamped envelope and Santa will send a reply.

Nov. 26-Jan. 3: Winter Break Reading Program at Salina Public Library, 301 W. Elm. Sign up, play games, read and win prizes.

Nov. 29: Sign-up begins for the Dec. 6-10 "Cookies & Stories with Santa" programs, Salina Public Library, 301 W. Elm.

Visit our online calendar at
www.human.salina.org